them that none of them appears to give promise of early widespread, adoption. A few phonetic systems have been devised by Chinese, but these have met the fate of those originated by foreigners. At least one has been utilized fairly widely by Protestant missionaries in making accessible the Bible and a rather restricted literature to those, particularly women, previously unable to read. None, however, seems to be making any great headway. The famous Mass Education Movement, the most widespread of the private purely Chinese enterprises for the removal of illiteracy, employs the historic characters. Indeed, any attempt to substitute a phonetic script for the time-honored forms must face the fact that the larger part of the existing literature would be unintelligible if transcribed in an alphabet or syllabary. If one were ever adopted by the entire nation, most of the literary treasures of the past would be closed to all except a few specialists. The chief reason for the failure of phonetic scripts to achieve widespread adoption has been that they have offered a kind of education which the literate do not need and which, consequently, the illiterate have not wanted. Effort is better expended in learning a limited number of the characters which the scholars themselves use.

Although efforts to introduce a simpler form of written character thus far have affected only a minority and give little promise of permanent success, extensive modifications have been made in the written language. We have previously noted that about 1917 a dignified form of the *mandarin,* as the *pal hua,* began to be prominent. It is written with the old characters, but it much more closely approximates the speech of every day than

does the classical style. Such a change was obviously necessary. Imported Western democratic ideals demanded that the masses be educated, and this would be all but impossible if all scholarly writing were to continue in *wen li.* Moreover, with the many new subjects with which youth must now perforce become acquainted, for most students time does not permit the attainment of facility in the classical forms of composition. It is a choice between a debased or greatly simplified *wen li* and a worthy vernacular. The latter alternative has been decided upon.

If, however, this *pai hua* is to be easily intelligible throughout the nation it is obvious that there must be a general understand-